

TO: Members of the Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources  
Committee

FROM: Dave Freudenthal  
Governor

SUBJECTS: Wyoming Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation Permanent Account Act  
Wildlife Easement Act

DATE: November 8, 2004

On Thursday, November 4, I saw a memorandum from Dave Gruver along with some draft legislation. The cover memo suggests the materials reflect a proposal which I offered to the committee. This is incorrect. The proposal was actually presented by Jim Magagna on behalf of a coalition of concerned groups. While somewhat similar to my discussions with the committee, it is at variance with several important points. I have attached some draft language for your consideration. The first is a wildlife habitat proposal. The second is a proposal for a wildlife easement which was part of a 1981 habitat proposal. I draw it to the Committee's attention, though I am not sure it is essential to the habitat fund concept.

I make no claim of originality. The wording draws heavily from legislation offered in the 1980's by Senators True, Nicholas, Pugh, Taggart, Kinnison, Peck, Scott, Majhanovich, Prevedel, Stroock and Turner. The Wildlife Easement language is directly from earlier drafts. This general concept had many champions but never quite cleared the last hurdle, largely because the funding evaporated.

I was concerned whether "wildlife" included aquatic resources. According to Webster's 10<sup>th</sup> Collegiate Dictionary, wildlife means, "living things and especially mammals, birds, and fishes that are neither human nor domesticated." My purpose has been to include both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife within the habitat fund concept.

As always, I am available to share my thoughts on these important concepts.